THE AGE OF SLEEPWALKING EMPIRES

How Europe, BRICS, and the World Became a Cluster of Denying Superorganisms

The modern world is a zoo of creatures that swear they're not animals. Europe, BRICS, ASEAN, the U.S. sphere—each one behaves like a superorganism with territorial instincts, metabolic needs, and self-preservation

reflexes, yet each insists it's just a collection of free individuals and sovereign nations following their conscience. This denial is adorable, like a giant octopus pretending it's a handful of fish.

Start with Europe. The EU is a democratic hybrid that evolved from the ruins of nationalist self-destruction. It talks as if it's a moral project, a peace union, a human-

rights garden. But beneath the narrative hums the old structural logic of Großraum: create a continental scale or risk being irrelevant in a world of giants. A big internal market, protective borders, integrated industry, shared standards, and a slow, cautious expansion—this is exactly the shape any large-scale space takes when confronted by global power competition. The interwar version carried the poison of

racial imperialism. The modern version carries spreadsheets, laws, and an allergy to uniforms. Same skeleton, different soul.

But Europe isn't special. It's simply the clearest example of a planetary pattern.

Look at BRICS. It's the parallel evolution. A coalition of states tired of playing inside the Western-designed operating system. Their

ambition—like Europe's—is to become a gravitational field that can resist external domination: alternative payment systems, joint development banks, energy coordination, regional security frameworks. They don't advertise themselves as a Großraum because the word burned too many villages, but structurally it's the same instinct: scale or die.

The U.S. also operates as a

Großraum, just with a Hollywood filter. Its dollar system, security guarantees, tech monopolies, and supply-chain control form a continental empire stretched across oceans.
China is building its own version through the Belt and Road, maritime chokepoints, and industrial dominance.
ASEAN behaves like a mini-bloc trying to avoid being crushed between behemoths.

Human rights, democracy, socialism, cultural flavor—these are the skins.
The bones underneath follow one rule:
In a multipolar world, every region drifts into bloc-formation whether it wants to or not.

This is the real cosmic joke: everyone thinks they're designing politics, but politics behaves more like ecology. Blocs emerge the

way coral reefs do—slowly, collectively, without conscious direction. And humans inside them keep pretending they're not part of the organism, even while they breathe through its gills.

Europe denies it's a Großraum.
BRICS denies it's an empire-in-formation.
The U.S. denies it's a hegemon.
China denies it's a superpower.

ASEAN denies it's balancing two titans.

Denial is the shared religion of the 21st century.

Meanwhile the borders harden, the trade blocs knit tighter, the weapons circulate, the currencies regionalize, the supply chains reorganize, and each superorganism adjusts its skin, metabolism, and musculature.

Humans say:
“I’m just voting.”
“I’m just buying groceries.”
“I’m just living my life.”

But the system is accumulating these micro-actions into macro-shapes: border regimes, resource networks, demographic flows, security dependencies. It’s not conspiracy. It’s emergence. No single mind decides anything, yet the

pattern appears—huge, slow, undeniable.

Europe is the democratic Großraum that pretends it's a peace garden.
BRICS is the anti-Western Großraum that pretends it's a conversation club.
The U.S. is the fading Großraum that pretends it's the "rules-based order."
China is the rising Großraum that pretends it's just doing trade.

Africa is the future Großraum still forming its skeleton.

And every bloc denies the very thing it is.

We have entered the age of sleepwalking empires—systems evolving into continental superorganisms while the humans inside insist they're free-floating atoms. It's not sinister; it's simply the physics of scale. When the world gets too

complex, individuals retreat into small moral universes while the collective structure makes the real moves.

The organisms are awake. The people are dreaming. And history, amused as ever, keeps stitching the gap between them with its mischievous grin.

ADDENDUM: THE CRITICS, THE COUNTERPOINTS, AND THE STRUCTURE THAT

REFUSES TO DIE

Every big idea attracts its chorus of "oversimplification!" the way a bright lamp attracts night insects. And they're not wrong — they're just orbiting too close to the details. Here are the strongest critiques this superorganism-bloc framing will face, followed by the structural rebuttals that make them melt like ice cubes on a reactor core.

1. “Blocs aren’t organisms. They’re messy coalitions of states.”

A critic will point to every internal conflict like it’s a gotcha:

- Poland vs. France on agriculture
- India vs. China in BRICS
- Germany vs. Italy on migration
- ASEAN’s chronic indecision
- U.S. political polarization

The critique: “Superorganism is a metaphor, not reality.”

Rebuttal:
Of course it’s a metaphor. All large-scale analysis is metaphor. The point isn’t that blocs are literally organisms, but that they display organism-like behavior when observed at structural scale. A human body is full of contradictions too: cells divide, fight, misbehave,

malfunction. That doesn't stop the organism from having metabolism, direction, and survival instincts.
Systems behave holistically despite internal mess, not because of unity.
Complexity isn't an argument against emergence — it's the cause of it.

2. "Grossraum is historically specific. Modern blocs are totally different."

They'll say: "You can't compare Nazi-era imperial thought with the EU or BRICS, that's inflammatory nonsense."

Rebuttal:
Nobody is equating moral foundations. The comparison is about scale logic, not ideology.
The interwar Großraum idea was simply the recognition that fragmented nations are structurally weak in a world

of large actors.
Remove the racial madness and the militarism, and the basic insight remains: size matters for survival.
The EU is the democracy version. BRICS is the multipolar version.
Same structural logic, different value systems.
Similarity of form does not imply equality of content.
Historians confuse moral difference with functional discontinuity. They are not

the same.

3. “Hyper-globalization makes blocs impossible. Everyone is interconnected.”

This critique sounds smart and very 1999:
Supply chains are global. Finance is global. Technology is global. No bloc can isolate itself or act as a closed system.
Therefore: “Großraum comparisons fail.”

Rebuttal:
Interdependence doesn't weaken bloc logic — it strengthens it.
Blocs are not seeking autarky. They're seeking negotiating power in a world where autarky is impossible.
The EU builds regulations to shape global markets.
BRICS builds alternative finance to bypass Western choke points.
China builds production

dominance to make others dependent.
The U.S. builds tech control to maintain leverage.
Interdependence simply becomes the new battlefield.
Blocs aren't retreating from the world — they're restructuring it around their gravitational pull.

4. "Agency matters. People and leaders choose paths."

This critique argues you're

erasing human choice. Elections, protests, policy negotiations — all these shape outcomes.

Rebuttal:
Agency is real up close, but structure dominates from afar.
Humans choose within constraints shaped by energy flows, demographics, geography, capital, technology, military alliances, and institutional inertia.

The range of viable choices narrows as systems scale.
Leaders “decide” — but only inside the shape of the possible.
The shape of the possible is structural.
This is not determinism; it’s bounded freedom.
A fish swims where it wants, but still inside the sea.

5. “Not every region forms blocs. Stop generalizing.”

The Middle East is fragmented. Africa is still emerging. Latin America drifts.
So: “Bloc logic isn’t universal.”

Rebuttal:
Every region attempting to operate on the global stage is drifting toward bloc-formation — even when it fails.
• Africa has AfCFTA and AU integration accelerating rapidly.

• Latin America is quietly synchronizing energy and commodity policy.
• The Middle East is locked in a three-way bloc battle (Saudi-Israel-UAE, Iran axis, Turkish sphere).
Fragmentation isn't evidence against bloc logic — it's just early-stage evolution.
And the reason they try is simple: scale pressure.
If you don't aggregate power, you become a resource zone for someone else.

6. “Internal contradictions make superorganism behavior impossible.”

The critic will catalogue contradictions like a stamp collector:
EU north/south split, BRICS India-China tension, US polarization, ASEAN’s neutrality fear.

Rebuttal:
Contradictions don’t kill

systems. They animate them. Internal conflict is the engine of adaptation.

A superorganism isn't smooth. It oscillates, negotiates, splits, recombines, compensates. Biology, ecology, and network theory say the same thing: Stability comes from dynamic equilibrium, not uniformity.

A bloc doesn't need unity to act as a superorganism — it needs structure.

That it has.

THE FINAL BLOW: STRUCTURE ALWAYS WINS THE ARGUMENT

Critics argue symptoms. Structure answers with outcomes.

The structural facts remain undeniable:

- The world is multipolar.

• Multipolarity breeds bloc logic.
• Blocs acquire territory-like functions.
• These functions resemble superorganisms.
• Großraum was the first crude description of this scale logic.
• Modern blocs are its democratic, technocratic, or authoritarian descendants.

Humans inside deny it because the system's scale

exceeds human cognition. Analysts deny it because the metaphor threatens disciplinary boundaries. Politicians deny it because the truth sounds imperial. But denial doesn't erase the drift.

We are living inside sleepwalking empires — democratic ones, authoritarian ones, hybrid ones — each pretending it's just a club of sovereign states

while behaving like a single entity with survival instincts.

And the rhythm will continue no matter how many critics clutch their pearls.